Special Collections

Coudert Family

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MAN'S DEPARTMENT CLUB BULLETIN n.d.

ART

Helen E Tyler

AMALIA KUESSNER CONDERT

Amalia Kuessner Condert is the wife of Capt. Charles Dupont Coudert who served in the Spanish American War, and is a lawyer by profession.

They own an estate at Windlesham, Surrey Co., England. Their home is called WindleshamHall

Mrs. Coudert does a great deal of traveling; but especially loves England Five or six miles distant is the home of her sister, Louise Kuessner, who is now Mrs. John W. Cloud, noted as a singer. They also own an estate known as the Thankerton House.

Albert Kuessner, their brother now resides in Chicago and has established quite a reputation as a composer of music. Terre Haute is justly proud of this talented family Many years ago, they lived in Ohio street, opposite the Court House in what is now called Memorial Hall, where their father conducted also a music house. He was considered an authority on musical instruments, especially pianos.

In the Chicago Inter Ocean of some time ago I find a very interesting account of the achievements of Amalia Kuessner as we knew her in her girlhood. It calls attention to the fact that she was almost self taught; that her individuality seemed to resent the intrusion of the methods of others.

An early portrait of her shows her standing by her grandfather's knee pencil and paper in hand.

Faces especially interested her; not faces of children, but rather those of adults upon which time had written lines of expression and character

She does not paint her subjects in fleeting, modern costumes, but rather in drapes of some artistic style. A mode of hair dressing to suit the face is selected. I am not sure however, but that some of our modern girls with their bobbed hair in pernament wave would make attractive subjects One of her first and loveliest miniatures was that of Mrs. James Ogden Armour, wife of the millionaire pork packer of Chicago. Among other American women whom she has immortalized may be named Mrs.Gorillard Spencer, Mrs Van Rensselaer Cruger, Mrs. Richard Townsend, Mrs. J. J. Astor, Miss Ruth Moore and wife of the Civil Lord of the Admiralty of England

The Inter Ocean says "In her miniature of Mrs. Theodore Havemeyer the artist has instilled into her work an atmosphere as regal as that of any pictured queen among the antique miniatures." Lady Arthur Paget whose son was an Under-Secretary of State in England, first introduced Miss Kussner's work into England. Encouraged by Lady Paget and Sir John Millais, a great artist, Amalia Kuessner went to England. At first she painted for the modest price of £100, later for £200 and still later received much higher fees.

Among her first English subjects was the Duchess of Marlborough. Her first Royal subject was King Edward, then Prince of Wales. She also painted the Czarina of Russia. and last but not least went to Cape Town, Southern Africa to paint the great Cecil Rhoades.

It is said that our Terre Haute girl does not confess to a feeling of awe or timidity when in the presence of Royalty. Of course we are proud of her success and hope that some day she will come back to her home city to visit her relatives here. Among whom are an anut Miss Lena Weinhardt and a cousin Mr. Allen Weinhardt. I feel sure that we would give her a royal welcome, besides which some of those receptions abroad might pale. There are at least many loyal and loving hearts waiting to welcome her and pay tribute to the beautiful woman who has achieved world fame as the finest miniature painter in the world.

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TERRE HAUTE

INTERESTING FACTS COMPILED BY MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY STAFF REGARDING TERRE HAUTE AND TERRE HAUTEANS.

FAMOUS PEOPLE—PAINTERS

By Madge Townsley.

AMALIA KUSSNER COUDERT.

Amalia Kussner Coudert was born in Greencastle, Ind., but lived in Terre Haute for a number of years. She was talented in a number of ways and achieved fame as a miniature painter on ivory. Her training began under Sister Maurice, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She received much encouragement and went to New York to study. Her first important commision came through a former Terre Haute woman, Alice Fisher Harcourt King, a noted actress who induced Lillian Russell to sit for her.

In 1897, she painted a miniature of the late King Edward, then the prince of Wales and in 1899 she went to Russia to paint the czar and czarina and other members of the royal family. During the same year she went to south Africa to execute a portrait in miniature of Cecil Rhodes.

Reference—"Art and Artists in Indiana," Century, Sept. 1900. Illustrated America V. 20. Ladies Home Journal, October, 1895, Critic v. 39, Smith's hist. of Indiana, House Beautiful, September, 1901.

Some of the present-day painters who reside in Terre Haute and have held exhibitions of their work in some of the larger cities are: Prof. W. T. Turman, Mrs. Blanche Bruce and Mrs. Jane Yung.

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